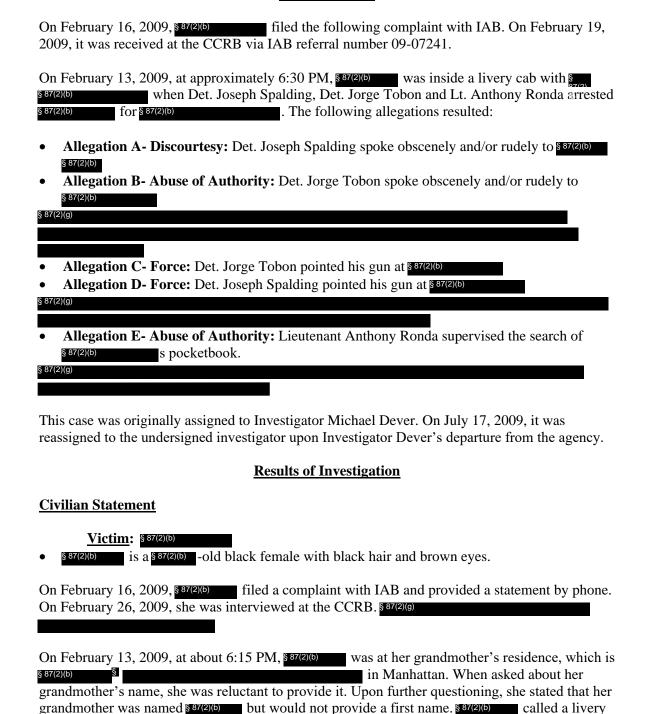
# CCRB INVESTIGATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Investigator:		Team:	CCRB Case #:	M	Force	<b>I</b>	Discourt.	П	U.S.
Simon Wang		Team # 1	200902587		Abuse		O.L.		Injury
Incident Date(s)		Location of Incident:			18 N	Mo. SO	OL	P	recinct:
Friday, 02/13/2009 6:30 PM		intersection of West 14 Seventh Avenue	12nd Street and		8/1	13/201	0		32
Date/Time CV Reported		CV Reported At:	How CV Reported	:	Date/Tin	ne Rece	eived at CCl	RB	
Mon, 02/16/2009 12:00 AM		IAB	Phone		Thu, 02/	19/200	9 4:17 PM		
Complainant/Victim	Type	Home Addre	ess						
Witness(es) Home Address									
Subject Officer(s)	Shield	TaxID	Command						
1. DT3 Joseph Spalding	92754	927545	NARCBMN						
2. DT3 Jorge Tobon	04696	920903	NARCBMN						
3. LT Anthony Ronda	00000	894324	NARCBMN						
Officer(s)	Allegation	on			Inv	estiga	ator Recon	nme	ndation
A . DT3 Joseph Spalding	Discourtesy: Det. Joseph Spalding spoke obscenely and/or rudely to [887(2)(b)]								
B . DT3 Jorge Tobon		Discourtesy: Det. Jorge Tobon spoke obscenely and/or rudely to \$87(2)(b)							
C . DT3 Jorge Tobon	Force: D	Force: Det. Jorge Tobon pointed his gun at §87(2)(b)							
D . DT3 Joseph Spalding	Force: D	Force: Det. Joseph Spalding pointed his gun at \$87(2)(b)							
E . LT Anthony Ronda	Abuse: Lieutenant Anthony Ronda supervised the search of s pocketbook.								

# **Case Summary**



jeans, and \$87(2)(b) was wearing black sweatpants and a black leather jacket. At about 6:30 PM, \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b) entered a dark-colored livery cab at West 112<sup>th</sup> Street and

referred to § 87(2)(b)

as '\$ 87(2)(b) was wearing a green pea-coat and blue

Lenox Avenue. [887(2)(b)] left the cab at West 141<sup>st</sup> Street and Lenox Avenue and entered a store on the northwest side of Lenox Avenue. [887(2)(b)] returned to the cab with a pack of gum and juice. No one approached the cab while it was stopped outside the store and the cab did not make any additional stops. The cab then drove on West 141<sup>st</sup> Street and made a right turn onto Seventh Avenue. [887(2)(b)] was seated behind the driver seat and [887(2)(b)] was seated behind the passenger seat.

Between 6:30 and 6:40 PM, the cab was stopped at a red light on the northbound side of Seventh Avenue at the corner of West 142<sup>nd</sup> or West 143<sup>rd</sup> Street and was using her cell phone to send a text message when she saw a plainclothes police officer, identified by investigation as Det. Jorge Tobon, outside the rear driver side of the cab where she was seated and another plainclothes officer, identified by investigation as Det. Joseph Spalding, wearing a white jersey with red numbers at the rear passenger side where was seated. She described Det. Tobon as a slightly heavyset white or Hispanic male with a full beard. She did not recall exactly what he was wearing, but he was dressed in a disheveled manner like a drug addict. She described Det. Spalding as a muscular, light-skinned, clean-shaven black male in his thirties, standing about 5'11" to 6'1" tall with badge number 5657 or 5667. [87(2)(b)] was looking at both officers because she initially did not know they were officers. Det. Tobon tapped his gun on the window and pointed it at [87(2)(b)] while repeatedly saying, "Open the door! Get the fuck out of the car! Get on the floor!" She heard Det. Spalding say, "Don't you see we're fucking cops?" Realizing the men were police officers, [87(2)(b)] put her hands up at shoulder level, but did not say anything back to them because she was in shock.

About thirty seconds later, Det. Spalding opened the rear passenger side door and \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{87(2)(0)}\$ was not sure whether \$\frac{57(2)(0)}{87(2)(0)}\$ left the cab by himself or whether he was pulled out. \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{87(2)(0)}\$ left the cab after \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{87(2)(0)}\$ She had her pocketbook with her at the time. As \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{87(2)(0)}\$ was already on the ground, \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{87(2)(0)}\$ repeatedly asked, "What happened?" but Det. Spalding pointed his gun at her head. Det. Tobon had gone around to the passenger side of the car where \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{87(2)(0)}\$ was. Both officers told \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{87(2)(0)}\$ to, "Get the fuck on the ground!" She was holding her cell phone in her hand at that time. \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{87(2)(0)}\$ immediately complied and Det. Spalding handcuffed her and had her stand up. She continued to ask, "What happened?" but was told to "shut up," so she stopped talking. The officers told the cab driver to stay in the driver seat and he complied. \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{87(2)(0)}\$ never heard the officers say anything else to the driver. Det. Spalding tapped the pockets of \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{87(2)(0)}\$ s jacket and pants, and frisked her waistband. She was then placed back into the cab. Det. Spalding asked her for identification, but she did not respond, so he removed her pocketbook from the cab and searched it. \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{87(2)(0)}\$ did not know if any officer ever actually obtained her identification.

About five minutes later, the Det. Spalding flagged down two uniformed female officers, who remain unidentified, in a marked car and asked them to search \$87(2)(b) However, Det. Tobon told Det. Spalding to let \$87(2)(b) go, so the female officers left. Det. Spalding took \$87(2)(b) out of the cab and removed her handcuffs. The officers brought \$87(2)(b) to an unmarked black van that was parked at the same corner. \$87(2)(b) asked \$87(2)(b) why he was being arrested. The two officers told her that he would be home in three hours, but never told her why they were arresting him. The van left the scene with \$87(2)(b) inside. \$87(2)(b) saw a third plainclothes officer, described as a white male, identified by investigation as Lt. Anthony Ronda, holding an orange folder after her handcuffs were removed.

# **Attempts to Contact Civilians**

From March 6, 2009 to April 21, 2009, Inv. Dever made five attempts by phone to schedule strong for an interview. On the final attempt, \$87(2)(b) agreed to appear at the CCRB on

April 22, 2009. He failed to appear at the appointed time. §87(2)(6)	was not interviewed for
this investigation.	

# **NYPD Statements:**

## Subject Officer: Det. JOSEPH SPALDING

- Det. Spalding is a \$87(2)(b) -old black male, who is 6'0" tall and weighs 220 pounds. He has black hair and brown eyes.
- Det. Spalding was assigned to a field team of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Module of Narcotics Borough Manhattan North. He was in an unmarked black Hyundai Sonata with Lt. Anthony Ronda and Det. Jorge Tobon.

#### Memo Book

Det. Spalding noted in his memo book that he was conducting buy-and-bust operations.

# **Stop and Frisk Report**

Det. Spalding prepared a stop and frisk report for \$87(2)(b) In the report, Det. Spalding indicated that a firearm was drawn and \$87(2)(b) was handcuffed. She was frisked, but not searched. The circumstances leading to the stop were, "in conversation at drug location," and "proximity to scene of suspected offense." \$87(2)(b) s identity was provided verbally.

#### **CCRB Statement**

On May 21, 2009, Det. Spalding was interviewed at the CCRB.

On February 13, 2009, at approximately 6:30 PM, Det. Spalding, Lt. Ronda and Det. Tobon were observing a street corner at West 141<sup>st</sup> Street and Lenox Avenue in Manhattan. Det. Spalding initially said that he was seated in the rear passenger side, Lt. Ronda was driving and Det. Tobon was in the front passenger seat. Their unmarked car was parked on Lenox Avenue about 20 to 25 feet north of the corner. Six or seven males were standing outside the bodega. They were not able to see into the store from the outside.

They had been observing the corner for about ten minutes when a silver Lincoln Town Car livery cab stopped at the corner. Other than the unidentified cab driver, a woman subsequently identified as \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{87(2)(0)}\$ was in the backseat behind the passenger seat. \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{87(2)(0)}\$ left the backseat of the cab and engaged in a brief conversation with one of the men standing on the corner. After engaging in a brief conversation with the unidentified man on the corner, \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{87(2)(0)}\$ and the unidentified man entered the bodega. \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{87(2)(0)}\$ left the bodega about two minutes later. After leaving the bodega, \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{87(2)(0)}\$ and the cab driver never left the cab. Immediately after \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{87(2)(0)}\$ returned to the cab, it drove away and made a right turn onto Seventh Avenue heading northbound. Det. Spalding stated that he believed that \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{87(2)(0)}\$ had engaged in a drug transaction based on his five years of experience as an investigator and an undercover officer, as well as what Lt. Ronda and Det. Tobon had told him regarding the corner being a drug prone location.

Lt. Ronda, Det. Spalding and Det. Tobon began following the cab. Det. Spalding stated that they wanted to stop and question on the suspicion that he had engaged in a drug transaction. There was no discussion about what they were going to do. The cab was stopped at a red light at the corner of West 142<sup>nd</sup> Street and Seventh Avenue when Lt. Ronda pulled up directly behind it. Det. Spalding and Det. Tobon left the unmarked car and approached the cab

with their shields displayed. Det. Spalding believed that Lt. Ronda initially stayed in the unmarked car. Det. Spalding left the unmarked car from the passenger side and approached the rear passenger side of the cab where stated. He believed that Det. Tobon approached the driver side.

Upon reaching the rear passenger side of the cab, Det. Spalding saw §87(2)(b) "Police, open the door." He told § 87(2)(b) to step out of the car because they needed to talk to did not respond, Det. Spalding tapped on the window with his knuckles. The cab driver unlocked the doors and Det. Spalding opened the rear passenger side door. At that suddenly reached down between his legs with his right hand. Det. Spalding was unable to see what, if anything, \$37(2)(0) was reaching for, so he drew his gun and pointed it at him and §87(2)(b) He did not recall seeing Det. Tobon with his gun drawn. Det. Spalding was also holding a flashlight. He identified himself as a police officer and repeatedly yelled, "Get out of the car! Let me see your hands" to \$87(2)(b) and "He's reaching for something!" to Det. Tobon, who then came over to the passenger side of the cab where Det. Spalding was. He did not recall if he said, "Get the fuck out of the car!" but added that he might have cursed at that point. Det. Spalding said that he never heard Det. Tobon say, "Get the fuck on the ground!" or "Get the fuck out of the car!" during the incident and added, "I don't know what he said. There was a lot of yelling so I don't remember exactly what he said." When asked if he ever cursed during the incident, Det. Spalding replied that he might have cursed at the point when did not immediately leave the car and reached down between his legs. Det. Spalding was not sure whether the cab had an interior light.

When \$57(2)(b) did not immediately comply when ordered to leave the cab, Det. Spalding grabbed his arm, but \$57(2)(b) still did not move. Lt. Ronda left the unmarked car and assisted him in pulling \$57(2)(b) out of the cab, at which point Det. Spalding handcuffed him. Det. Spalding stated that he ordered \$57(2)(b) to leave the cab more than twice prior to pulling him out. They ordered \$57(2)(b) to leave the cab from the passenger side and she complied, at which point Det. Spalding placed her on the ground. \$57(2)(b) was handcuffed, but Det. Spalding was not sure whether he, Lt. Ronda or Det. Tobon handcuffed her. The only statement Det. Spalding remembered her making was, "I don't know what happened. What happened?" They told her that they were doing an investigation.

Det. Spalding checked the floor of the backseat where \$87(2)(b) had reached and recovered two bags of marijuana, which \$87(2)(b) admitted that he had purchased on the corner. The marijuana was contained in clear plastic bags. After that, \$87(2)(b) s handcuffs were removed and Det. Spalding told her that they had been observing \$87(2)(b) When asked if she was ever told to "shut the fuck up," Det. Spalding replied, "No, not to my knowledge" and added that she was not being combative, so there was no reason to tell her that. \$87(2)(b) was arrested for \$87(2)(b) . Det. Spalding prepared a Stop and Frisk Report (UF250) regarding \$87(2)(b) \$87(2)(b)

had a purse and a cell phone on her. Det. Spalding remembered the cell phone because accidentally left it at the scene after she was released. When asked if he reached into the pocketbook, Det. Spalding replied, "Yes, I believe I did" and added that he frisked \$87(2)(b) describing his action as a "four-point pat down." He stated that a four point pat down is a quick frisk for weapons, consisting of frisking the pants and jacket pockets, as well as the waistband.

\$87(2)(b) was stopped, handcuffed and her pocketbook was searched because she was with \$7(2)(b) and it was not uncommon for a male suspect to stash contraband with a female suspect because they think the police won't stop the female. Det. Spalding did not recall exactly where

the pocketbook was. He believed that provided her information verbally for the UF250. Det. Spalding never obtained her ID.

Det. Spalding never obtained the name of the cab driver or the cab company that the driver worked for. Did not remember what else was in the pocketbook other than the phone.

# **Subject Officer: Lt. ANTHONY RONDA**

- Lt. Ronda is a \$87(2)(6) -old Hispanic male, who is 5'9" tall and weighs 218 pounds. He has brown hair and brown eyes.
- On February 13, 2009, Lt. Ronda was working as the supervising officer of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Precinct module of the Manhattan North Narcotics Bureau. He was working in plainclothes and was supervising a field unit.

#### Memo Book

Lt. Ronda noted in his memo book that at 6:15 PM, one arrest was made at West 142<sup>nd</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

#### **CCRB Statement**

On June 3, 2009, Lt. Anthony Ronda of Narcotics Bureau Manhattan North was interviewed at the CCRB. [887(2)(9)

Lt. Ronda stated that the grocery store is a known drug selling location, where transactions are conducted both outside and inside the establishment. Lt. Ronda, who had been working in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Module of the Narcotics Bureau since November of 2008, has personally been involved in over twenty arrests in that area. Lt. Ronda was the driver. Det. Spalding was seated in the front passenger seat while Det. Tobon was seated in the rear passenger seat.

Lt. Ronda exited the vehicle after \$87(2)(b) was pulled out of the livery cab, once he believed that the vehicle would not drive away. \$87(2)(b) voluntarily exited the vehicle after verbal commands from Det. Tobon. Det. Spalding retrieved the marijuana from the rear floor of the livery cab. At that point, Lt. Ronda saw the bags of marijuana for the first time. \$87(2)(b) left her handbag in the rear of the livery cab. An officer searched the bag to ensure their safety, because it was within the lungeable area. This was done after the marijuana had been found. \$87(2)(b) was never searched or frisked by an officer. \$87(2)(b) s ID was obtained from her handbag, and she was released from the scene.

## **Subject Officer: Det. JORGE TOBON**

- Det. Tobon is a \$87(2)(b) -old Hispanic male who is 5'6" tall and weighs 215 pounds. He has black hair and brown eyes.
- On February 13, 2009, Det. Tobon was working as part of a narcotics observation team with Det. Joseph Spalding and Lt. Anthony Ronda. They were dressed in plainclothes in an unmarked vehicle.

# Memo Book

Det. Tobon noted in his memo book that at 5:00 PM, he was assigned to the observation post with Det. Spalding and Lt. Ronda.

## **CCRB Statement**

On October 29, 2009, Det. Jorge Tobon of Manhattan North Narcotics was interviewed at the CCRB. § 87(2)(9)

Det. Tobon stated that the intersection of 141<sup>st</sup> Street and Lenox Avenue was chosen as a drug prone area and that the specific location was designated by the commanding officer of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Precinct as part of a precinct plan for counter-narcotics operations. Det. Tobon stated that he no longer recalled what he observed, but stated that according to the arrest report, a hand to hand transaction occurred, in which §87(2)(5) was the buyer.

Det. Tobon did not recall whether Lt. Ronda left the vehicle as he and Det. Spalding approached the stopped cab. Det. Tobon did not have his weapon drawn as he approached the cab. Det. Spalding had his weapon drawn, but Det. Tobon did not recall what position the weapon was being held or whether it was pointed at the cab or any individuals.

Det. Tobon stated that as he approached, he did not see whether stated towards his feet, but stated that Det. Spalding later informed him that stated towards his feet. Det. Tobon did not recall exactly what actions or statements Det. Spalding made, except that Det. Spalding made some verbal command for statements Det. Tobon ordered statements out of the vehicle, but did not recall whether he physically removed her or if she complied voluntarily. However, he stated that he did not feel threatened by any of her actions. Det. Tobon denied saying, "Get the fuck out of the car." Or, "Don't you see we're fucking cops?" Det. Tobon didn't recall whether stated that he frisked her or the pocketbook. He stated that the pocketbook was removed from the vehicle but didn't recall who did that. He stated that stated that stated that the pocketbook was not present during the drug transaction, and therefore, they would not have had a reason to frisk her.

# **NYPD Documents**

## Roll Call

The roll call from the 32<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Module of Narcotics Borough Manhattan North on February 13, 2009, shows that Det. Tobon and Det. Spalding were working together.

## **Tactical Plan**

The tactical plan from February 13, 2009, shows that Det. Tobon and Det. Spalding were assigned to the chase car, which was a blue Dodge.

Property Vouchers Property vouchers from \$87(2)(b) s arrest indicated that two bags of marijuana, an imitation air pistol and air pellet ammunition was recovered from \$87(2)(b)
Field Test A field test of the contents of \$87(2)(b) states as two plastic bags tested positive for Marijuana.
<ul> <li>Status of Civil Proceedings</li> <li>has not filed a Notice of Claim with the City of New York as of December 30, 2009 with regard to the incident.</li> </ul>
Civilian Criminal History  [\$ 87(2)(b)] [\$\$ 86(1)(3)&(4)] [\$ 87(2)(c)]
<ul> <li>Civilians CCRB History</li> <li>This is the first CCRB complaint filed by \$87(2)(b)</li> <li>She was named as a victim in CCRB case number 200608173, in which \$87(2)(b)</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Subject Officers CCRB History</li> <li>Det. Spalding has been a member of the service for 9 years and there are no substantiated CCRB allegations against him (encl. [1a]).</li> <li>Det. Tobon has been a member of the service for 12 years. \$87(4-5) \$87(2)(9)</li> <li>Lt. Ronda has been a member of the service for 22 years and there are two substantiated CCRB allegations against him. In CCRB case number 200700582, Lt. Ronda received a Command Discipline for premises entered. In CCRB case number 9800752, he was substantiated for threat to property. The NYPD disposition was not provided (encl. [1c-1d]).</li> </ul>
Conclusion  Identification of Subject Officers  Lt. Ronda, Det. Tobon and Det. Spalding all admitted to interacting with \$87(2)(6) and \$87(2)(
Investigative Findings and Recommendations
Allegation A- Discourtesy: Det. Joseph Spalding spoke obscenely and/or rudely to S87(2)(b)  Allegation B- Abuse of Authority: Det. Jorge Tobon spoke obscenely and/or rudely to
\$87(2)(0)  \$87(2)(0)  alleged that Det. Spalding and Det. Tobon yelled at her to, "Get the fuck out of the car," "Get the fuck on the ground," and "Don't you see we're fucking cops?" Neither Det.

Spalding nor Det. Tobon could recall whether they yelled such things while ordering \$87(2)(b)
out of the vehicle. Lt. Ronda denied hearing either officer use such language. \$87(2)(9)
Allegation C- Force: Det. Jorge Tobon pointed his gun at §87(2)(6)
Allegation D- Force: Det. Joseph Spalding pointed his gun at 887(2)(b)
alleged that Det. Spalding and Det. Tobon both pointed their weapons at her. Det. Spalding admitted to drawing and pointing his firearm at both \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b) In the
decision of PD v. Gliner, the Police Department determined that officers are given broad
discretion to display their weapons in potentially dangerous circumstances. Det. Spalding stated
that \$87(2)(b) bent down and reached towards his feet after he knocked on \$87(2)(b) s window and ordered him to exit the vehicle. This caused Det. Spalding to fear for his safety, and
in response, he drew his weapon and pointed it at \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b) who were sitting
next to each other. From where Det. Spalding stood, he could not have pointed his weapon at
§ 87(2)(b) without also pointing at § 87(2)(b) § 87(2)(g)
§ 87(2)(g)
Allegation E- Abuse of Authority: Lieutenant Anthony Ronda supervised the search of
s pocketbook.  It is undisputed that \$87(2)(b) so pocketbook was opened and searched by Det. Spalding. After
Det. Spalding observed two bags of marijuana from inside the taxi, \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b)
were both handcuffed and placed under arrest. § 87(2)(9)

Team:1	-	:	
Investigator:Signatu	re Sim	non Wang Date	e
Supervisor:	gnature Print	Date	<del></del> ;
Reviewer: Title/Sig	nature Print	Date	<del></del> ;
Reviewer:Title/Sign			e